United Nations A/70/230

General Assembly

Distr.: General
31 July 2015

Original: English

Seventieth session
Items 20 (d), (e) and (f) of the provisional agenda*

Sustainable development: protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind

Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

Convention on Biological Diversity

Implementation of United Nations environmental conventions

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the General Assembly the reports submitted by the secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

* A/70/150.

15-13036 (E) 310815

Please recycle

Contents

		Page
I.	Report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the United Nations Climate Change Conference, Lima, 2014	4
	A. Outcomes of the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties and the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol	4
	B. High-level segment	5
	C. Outcomes of the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties	6
	D. Outcomes of the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol	9
	E. Conclusions and recommendations	10
II.	Report on the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa	11
	A. Preparations for the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties	11
	B. Fourth special session of the Committee on Science and Technology	12
	C. Thirteenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention	12
	D. Follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in the context of the post-2015 development agenda	14
	E. Global observance of the 2015 World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought	15
	F. Collaboration with the Global Environment Facility	16
	G. Partnerships	16
	H. Observations and possible action by the General Assembly	17
III.	Report on the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity	17
	A. Introduction	17
	B. Outcome of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity	17
	C. Key outcomes of the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety	21
	D. Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety	22
	E. Key outcomes of the first Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity	22

F. Progress made in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, including difficulties encountered in the process of implementation 23

G. Follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development 23

H. Recommendations 24

Annex

Progress in the implementation of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets 25

I. Report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the United Nations Climate Change Conference, Lima, 2014

1. In its resolution 69/220, the General Assembly invited the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to report to it at its seventieth session on the work of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention. The present report is submitted in response to that invitation.

A. Outcomes of the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties and the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol

2. The United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Lima from 1 to 14 December 2014 comprised the following sessions:

(a) The twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties;

(b) The tenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol;

(c) The forty-first session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation;

(d) The forty-first session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice;

(e) The seventh part of the second session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action.

3. The Lima Conference enjoyed a high level of participation and was attended by 6,291 government delegates, 3,985 observers and 904 media representatives.

4. It was able to deliver significant results across all bodies: the Conference of the Parties adopted 12 decisions, and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol adopted 8 decisions.

5. The main outcomes of the Lima Conference include:

(a) The Lima Call for Climate Action, on further advancing the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action towards achieving an ambitious and meaningful global agreement in 2015, including an annex with elements of a draft negotiating text;

(b) The progress made on the Warsaw international mechanism for loss and damage associated with climate change impacts, including agreement on the work plan and on the composition of its executive committee;

(c) The Lima work programme on gender represents significant progress since the decision on gender reached by the Parties in 2012 (decision 23/CP.18).

6. Moreover, as a result of the pledges made during the Lima Conference for the capitalization of the Green Climate Fund and the Adaptation Fund, the Fund's initial capitalization goal of $10 billion was reached and exceeded and the Adaptation Fund was brought much closer to its $90 million goal.

B. High-level segment

7. The President of the Conference opened the joint high-level segment of the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties and tenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties.

8. The Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and other dignitaries delivered statements recognizing the need to take decisive steps towards achieving a successful agreement at the United Nations Climate Change Conference to be held in Paris from 30 November to 11 December 2015. The Secretary-General asked the parties that had not yet pledged their support for the Green Climate Fund to consider making an ambitious financial commitment in Lima. He urged the parties to make a decision to stimulate and facilitate cooperation on a more comprehensive range of actions by all actors, including the private sector, civil society, cities and other subnational actors and urged parties that had not yet done so to deposit their instruments of acceptance of the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol.

9. During the high-level segment, statements were made by 144 parties, of which 5 were delivered by Heads of State or Government, 3 by either vice-presidents or deputy prime ministers and 90 by ministers.

10. Two high-level ministerial dialogues were convened, one on climate financing and one on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action.

11. In accordance with decision 3/CP.19, paragraph 13, the first biennial high-level ministerial dialogue on climate finance was held on 9 December 2014. The President of the Conference reflected on the conclusions of the dialogue:[1] ministers were of the view that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change had much of the institutional basis and many of the instruments and elements necessary to provide predictability, accessibility and clarity in the use of financial flows; they highlighted the importance of funding being monitored, reported and verified; and they noted that many of the instruments must be improved or enhanced and respond to mandates that are less reactive and more strategic. The President considered that the dialogue provided a clear political signal of the need to articulate elements that would enable successful mobilization, the deployment and use of climate finance, not only in the period prior to 2020 but also as parties approached the post-2020 period, ultimately securing much-needed predictability, efficiency and clarity in the flow of resources.

12. In accordance with decision 1/CP.19, paragraph 7, in which the Conference of the Parties called upon parties to intensify their high-level engagement on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action through an in-session ministerial dialogue, the President convened a ministerial dialogue with the aim of providing strategic direction in order to set the foundations for the 2015 agreement and accelerate action.

13. The dialogue provided a unique opportunity for ministers to engage with each other and to address the full spectrum of issues under the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action, including political parity and balance between the different elements of the 2015 agreement, the preparation of intended nationally determined

[1] See unfccc.int/meetings/lima_dec_2014/items/8717.php.

contributions and the opportunity afforded by the agreement to support the accelerated domestic implementation of existing and enhanced action. Furthermore, the dialogue helped parties to enhance political momentum towards achieving successful outcomes at the Lima Conference in preparation for the United Nations Climate Change Conference to be held in Paris in 2015.

14. In addition, the President conducted a high-level meeting to support the needed acceleration of action on climate change and to give recognition to all actors of their role in combating climate change. The event featured a structured dialogue between representatives of Governments and leading non-State actors to identify methods and approaches for scaling up action.

C. Outcomes of the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties

15. At the Lima Conference, significant progress was achieved in advancing towards a new global agreement.

16. In decision 1/CP.20, paragraph 2, the Conference of the Parties decided that the protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all Parties should address in a balanced manner, inter alia, mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology development and transfer, capacity-building, and transparency of action and support. In paragraph 3 of the same decision, the parties underscored their commitment to reaching an ambitious agreement in 2015 that reflected the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities in the light of different national circumstances. This reflected Convention principles and ensured that the decision included the concept of the evolution of responsibilities and capacity since the time the Convention was originally negotiated.

17. In paragraph 5 of the decision, the parties acknowledged the progress made in Lima in elaborating the elements of a draft negotiating text, contained in the annex to the decision, and in paragraph 6 decided that the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action would intensify its work with a view to making a negotiating text available before May 2015.

18. The relevance of intended nationally determined contributions was reflected in the outcomes of the Lima Conference. In paragraph 10 of the decision, it was agreed that each party's intended nationally determined contribution would represent a progression beyond the current undertaking of that party, and in paragraph 12 the Conference of the Parties invited all parties to consider communicating their undertakings in adaptation planning or to consider including an adaptation component in their intended nationally determined contributions.

19. It was also agreed, in paragraph 14 of the decision, that the information to be provided by parties in communicating such contributions, in order to facilitate clarity, transparency and understanding, may include, as appropriate, quantifiable information on the reference point, time frames and/or periods for implementation, scope and coverage, planning processes, assumptions and methodological approaches, including those for estimating and accounting for anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions and, as appropriate, removals, how the party considers that its intended nationally determined contribution is fair and ambitious, in the

light of its national circumstances, and how it contributes towards achieving the objective of the Convention.

20. Furthermore, in paragraph 15 of the decision, the Conference of the Parties reiterated its call to developed country parties, the operating entities of the financial mechanism and any other organizations in a position to do so to provide support for the preparation and communication of the intended nationally determined contributions of parties that might need it.

21. In paragraph 19 of the decision, the Conference of the Parties decided to continue the technical examination of opportunities with high mitigation potential, including those with adaptation, health and sustainable development co-benefits, in the period 2015-2020 by requesting the secretariat to organize a series of in-session technical expert meetings, to update the technical paper on the mitigation benefits of actions and on initiatives and options to enhance mitigation ambition, and to publish a summary for policymakers.

22. Finally, in paragraph 21 of the decision, the Conference of the Parties welcomed the Lima high-level meeting on climate action convened by the President and encouraged the Executive Secretary and the President to convene an annual high-level event on enhancing the implementation of climate action (see decision 1/CP.20, para. 21).

23. Accelerating action to combat climate change was also the purpose of two initiatives at the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties. During the Lima high-level meeting, the President of the Conference of the Parties launched the Non-State Actor Zone for Climate Action portal, an online platform that showcases commitments to action to address climate change by companies, cities, subnational regions and investors. The twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties also launched the Lima-Paris Action Agenda, a joint undertaking by the Peruvian and French presidencies of the Conference of the Parties, the Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change that aims to accelerate the growing engagement of all parts of society in climate action and to build concrete, ambitious and lasting cooperative initiatives ahead of the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties.

24. In decision 2/CP.20, a major outcome of the Lima Conference, the Conference of the Parties made progress towards operationalizing the Warsaw international mechanism for loss and damage associated with climate change. Parties agreed that the composition of the Executive Committee should be 10 members from parties included in annex I to the Convention and 10 members from parties not included in annex I to the Convention, with 2 members each from Africa, Asia and Pacific, and Latin American and Caribbean States; 1 member from small island developing States; 1 member from the least developed country parties and 2 additional members from non-annex I parties. Parties also agreed on provisions related to terms of service, decision-making, the number of meetings per year and working language, among others.

25. In addition, the Conference of the Parties adopted a set of decisions, 5/CP.20 and 7/CP.20, on long-term climate finance and the Green Climate Fund, respectively.

26. Under the decision on long-term climate finance, parties were requested to continue to enhance their enabling environments and policy frameworks to facilitate the mobilization and effective deployment of climate finance in accordance with decision 3/CP.19. Developed country parties were also requested, in preparing their next round of updated biennial submissions on strategies and approaches for scaling up climate finance for the period 2016-2020, to enhance the available quantitative and qualitative elements of a pathway, placing greater emphasis on the transparency and predictability of financial flows (see decision 5/CP.20, paras. 8 and 10).

27. The Conference of the Parties requested the secretariat to organize annual in-session workshops through 2020 and to prepare a summary report on the workshops for annual consideration by the Conference and the high-level ministerial dialogue on climate finance (see decision 5/CP.20, paras. 12 and 13). In 2015 and 2016, the workshops would focus on the issues of adaptation finance, the need to provide support to developing country parties and cooperation on enhanced enabling environments and support for readiness activities.

28. In decision 7/CP.20, the Conference of the Parties welcomed with appreciation the successful and timely initial resource mobilization process of the Green Climate Fund, which led to the mobilization of $10.2 billion, enabling the Fund to start its activities in supporting developing country parties to the Convention and making it the largest dedicated climate fund. The Conference of the Parties urged the Fund, the interim trustee and contributors to confirm the pledges in the form of fully executed contribution agreements/arrangements, taking note that the commitment authority of the Fund would become effective when 50 per cent of the contributions pledged at the November 2014 pledging session were reflected in fully executed contribution agreements/arrangements received by the secretariat by 30 April 2015.

29. In decision 7/CP.20, paragraph 8, the Conference of the Parties requested the Board of the Green Climate Fund to accelerate the operationalization of the adaptation and mitigation windows and to ensure adequate resources for capacity-building and technology development and transfer. In paragraph 9, the Board was also requested to accelerate the operationalization of the private sector facility by aiming to ensure that private sector entities and public entities with relevant experience in working with the private sector are accredited in 2015, expediting action to mobilize resources at scale and developing a strategic approach to engaging with the private sector.

30. The Lima Conference also made progress towards defining the funding and implementation of national adaptation plans. In the Lima Call for Climate Action, decision 3/CP.20, the Conference of the Parties recognized in paragraph 2 of the decision that the process to formulate and implement such plans is fundamental for building adaptive capacity and reducing vulnerability to the impacts of climate change (see decision 3/CP.20, para. 2). During the Lima Conference, the President of the Conference of the Parties launched a national adaptation plan global network consisting of Germany, Jamaica, Japan, Peru, the Philippines, Togo, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

31. The Lima Conference provided an opportunity for the first-ever round of multilateral assessments[2] of developed country parties' progress in implementing

[2] In accordance with the modalities and procedures for international assessment and review, contained in annex II to decision 2/CP.17.

emission reductions and removals related to their quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets. A total of 17 developed country parties were assessed.

32. The Conference of the Parties adopted decision 18/CP.20, on the Lima work programme on gender and decided to enhance the implementation of previous decisions related to gender, namely, decisions 36/CP.7, 1/CP.16 and 23/CP.18, by inviting Parties to advance gender balance, promote gender sensitivity in developing and implementing climate policy and achieve gender-responsive climate policy in all relevant activities under the Convention.

33. In paragraph 10 of the decision, the Conference of the Parties decided to clarify the meaning of the term "gender-responsive climate policy" from an implementation perspective and to improve the development and effective implementation of gender-responsive climate policy.

D. Outcomes of the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol

34. At the Lima Conference, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol considered the status report presented by the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the instruments of acceptance received by the Depositary in respect of the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol (see decision 1/CMP.8). As at 2 December 2014, the Depositary had received instruments of acceptance of the Doha Amendment from 19 parties. Two more instruments were deposited during the Lima Conference, and the President noted that the Doha Amendment required an additional 123 instruments of acceptance in order to enter into force.

35. The Adaptation Fund Board presented its report to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (FCCC/KP/CMP/2014/6). The Board noted the accreditation of 17 national implementing entities that could directly access resources from the Adaptation Fund; cumulative project and programme approvals amounting to $264.8 million as at November 2014; the approval of the environmental and social policy of the Adaptation Fund; the approval of the readiness programme for direct access to climate finance; the approval of 16 project/programme proposals, totalling $80.6 million, submitted by implementing entities from July 2013 to November 2014; and the establishment of a new fundraising target of $80 million per calendar year for 2014 and 2015.

36. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol also adopted the amendment to the terms and conditions of services to be provided by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development as trustee for the Adaptation Fund, on an interim basis (decision 1/CMP.10, para. 1). Furthermore, the Conference continued to encourage annex I parties to provide funding to support the target for the resource mobilization strategy set by the Adaptation Fund Board of $80 million per calendar year in 2014 and 2015 and to scale up funding, with a view to achieving the resource mobilization goal of the Adaptation Fund Board from resources that are additional to the share of proceeds from clean development mechanism project activities, the first international transfers of assigned amount units and the issuance of emission reduction units for activities under article 6 of the Kyoto Protocol (see decision 1/CMP.10, para. 7).

The Conference requested that the Adaptation Fund Board, in its future reports to the Conference, provide further clarity on the effect of the fluctuation of the price of certified emission reductions and the impact of this fluctuation on the resources available to the Fund (see decision 1/CMP.10, para. 10).

37. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol adopted decision 2/CMP.10 on the second review of the Adaptation Fund and requested that Subsidiary Body for Implementation, at its forty-fourth session, initiate the third review of the Adaptation Fund, in accordance with the terms of reference contained in the annex to decision 2/CMP.9 (see decision 2/CMP.10, para. 9).

38. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol provided further guidance relating to the clean development mechanism (see decision 4/CMP.10). The topics of such guidance included general guidance, governance, baseline and monitoring methodologies and additionality, the registration of project activities under the clean development mechanism and the issuance of certified emission reductions, regional and subregional distribution, and resources for work related to the clean development mechanism.

39. As in previous years, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol also provided guidance in respect of the implementation of Article 6 of the Kyoto Protocol, on joint implementation.

E. Conclusions and recommendations

40. **The United Nations General Assembly may wish to, inter alia:**

(a) **Take note of the report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, as transmitted by the Secretary-General;**

(b) **Note the outcomes of the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and tenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, hosted by the Government of Peru from 1 to 14 December 2014;**

(c) **Urge parties to deposit their instruments of acceptance in order to ensure the prompt entry into force of the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol;**

(d) **Pledge its support to the negotiating process under the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action towards the conclusion of a new climate agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2015;**

(e) **Urge parties to communicate their intended nationally determined contributions well in advance of twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties;**

(f) **Invite the Executive Secretary to continue to report to it on the work of the Conference of the Parties and the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol.**

II. Report on the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

41. In its resolution 69/221, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report on its implementation at its seventieth session. The present report constitutes an update to the General Assembly on the principal activities that have been undertaken in that respect.

A. Preparations for the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties

42. In decision 40/COP.11, the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa accepted with gratitude the generous offer of the Government of Turkey to host the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties.

43. The Conference will be held in Ankara from 12 to 23 October 2015 and will be divided into three segments, namely, the initial segment, the high-level segment and the meetings of the subsidiary bodies, namely the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and the Committee on Science and Technology.

44. In accordance with decision 39/COP.11, interactive dialogue sessions among ministers and other high-ranking officials will be organized on the occasion of the high-level segment, on 20 and 21 October 2015. This will include three parallel ministerial/high-level round-table discussions. Specific themes to be discussed at the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties will include the following: (a) "From global to local: translating land degradation neutrality into action"; (b) "Drought adaptation: mainstreaming drought management policy in national agendas and mitigating the effects of drought"; and (c) "Land-based adaptation to climate change: resilience through sustainable land management". In addition, three interactive plenary segment will follow, on (a) land rights (a dialogue with civil society); (b) framing legislation to protect and rehabilitate land (a dialogue with parliamentarians); and (c) incentives for investment in sustainable land management (a dialogue with the private sector).

45. The fourteenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention will address matters such as the effective implementation of the Convention at the national, subregional and regional levels, best practices in the implementation of the Convention, and the reporting and review process of the Convention in view of the post-2015 development agenda.

46. In line with decision 29/COP.11, the programme of work of the twelfth session of the Committee on Science and Technology, will include the outcomes of the third Scientific Conference of the Convention, work programme of the Committee for the next biennium and linking scientific knowledge with decision-making.

47. To prepare substantively for the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties, parties held meetings of the fourth special session of the Committee on Science and Technology, the Convention's third Scientific Conference and the

thirteenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention.

B. Fourth special session of the Committee on Science and Technology

48. The fourth special session of the Committee on Science and Technology, which was organized in conjunction with the third Scientific Conference of the Convention, addressed the theme "Combating desertification/land degradation and drought for poverty reduction and sustainable development: the contribution of science, technology, traditional knowledge and practices". In addition, the session focused on the link between climate change and desertification and on how to anticipate, assess and adapt to future change in drylands.

49. Over 280 scientists, governmental representatives and representatives of civil society and United Nations entities participated in the session. A total of 206 abstracts and other documents were received and presented at the Conference during poster sessions. The Conference used a novel, participatory format to enhance interaction among participants. The objective of the fourth special session of the Committee was to produce sound scientific outputs that could support policy formulation at the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties. The key scientific findings were focused on the effects of demographic pressure and unsustainable land management practices on land degradation and desertification. It was noted that these were being exacerbated worldwide due to the effects of climate change, which included changing rainfall patterns, increased frequency and intensity of drought and floods, rising temperatures and profound ecological shifts.

50. The Conference noted that ecosystem-based approaches and sustainable land management practices had the potential to simultaneously enable adaptation to climate change and land degradation while in many cases protecting or enhancing biodiversity. However, at its fourth special session, the Committee also noted that state-of-the-art science and technology, allied with local or traditional knowledge developed over time, would be needed. It was also noted that drylands were characterized by high rainfall variability and unpredictable droughts. This had led to the development of land-use systems, governance structures and processes that reflected and responded to those uncertainties through flexibility and mobility in the use of the land's natural capital.

51. The findings of the Committee on Science and Technology at its fourth special session will be transmitted to the twelfth session of the Committee at its twelfth session. The newly established Science-Policy Interface will also formulate and transmit to the Committee at its twelfth session policy-oriented recommendations based on the outcomes of the Conference to increase chances of policy uptake and impact.

C. Thirteenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

52. The thirteenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention was held in Bonn, Germany, from 25 to 27 March 2015. The

session was preceded by meetings of the five regional implementation annexes of the Convention on 23 and 24 March 2015.

53. The Committee undertook the third assessment of implementation of the Convention against the operational objectives of the 10-year strategy and their global targets, as well as the review of financial flows for the implementation of the Convention. This was based on national reports submitted to the secretariat and an analysis of progress achieved since the period 2005-2009 and based on performance indicators.

54. Of the affected country parties, 95 per cent submitted national reports for review by the Committee at its thirteenth session, as did 70 per cent of developed country parties. After reviewing this information, the Committee noted the following trends. There has been considerable progress in putting in place and implementing institutional mechanisms at the national level. In addition, almost 30 per cent of the global population is informed about desertification, land degradation and drought as well as synergies with climate change and biodiversity.

55. The Committee further noted that national monitoring and planning had become more effective, as 80 per cent of the action programmes relied on a sound identification of biophysical and socioeconomic drivers of desertification and their interaction with climate change and biodiversity. Parties participating in the thirteenth session of the Committee also noted that less than 60 per cent of all action programmes were actually being implemented.

56. Considerable attention was also devoted to the availability of financial resources, which was identified as one of the major limiting factors. Another limiting factor was that only one third of the countries had established the integrated investment frameworks that could assist them in increasing investments in land, from both domestic and external resources. The Committee noted that the public sector remained the largest source of funding for land. Commitments by developed country parties represented 10 per cent of total commitments. The Committee also called for an increase in the financial envelope for combating land degradation.

57. Parties invited the Global Environment Facility to consider establishing a multi-year funding programme and allocating enough resources to reverse the cost of inaction on land degradation, which is estimated at $66 billion annually, in order to support sustainable land management and land degradation neutrality. They also called for increased access to diversified funding sources, including the Green Climate Fund and the Adaptation Fund, to increase land-based adaptation and mitigation.

58. Parties also took stock of the ongoing negotiations at the United Nations on the post-2015 development agenda, welcomed the report of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals, and welcomed in particular goal 15 and its target 3 on land degradation neutrality. They debated the question of integrating land degradation neutrality and any other targets relevant to land degradation that the General Assembly would adopt into the national action programmes. In this regard, they also welcomed the pilot initiative undertaken by 16 countries, to translate the land degradation neutrality goal into national voluntary targets, making use of the implementation framework and the monitoring and assessment mechanisms established within the Convention process; set national

voluntary targets for land degradation neutrality within their national adaptation plans; and monitor the achievement of such targets by 2030.

D. Follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in the context of the post-2015 development agenda

1. Consideration of issues related to desertification, land degradation and drought in the post-2015 development agenda process

59. Intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda were launched at United Nations Headquarters in January 2015. At the sessions, strong support for the consideration of issues related to desertification, land degradation and drought and an sustainable development goal and/or target on land degradation neutrality was articulated by a number of interest groups, including the group of friends on desertification, land degradation and drought.

60. At the third session of the intergovernmental negotiations, which was held from 23 to 27 March 2015, at which the issue of indicators was considered, the secretariat of the Convention, along with other United Nations entities comprising the technical support team, were requested by the co-facilitators of the intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda, through the United Nations Statistical Commission, to prepare a preliminary list of indicators for the sustainable development goals. The secretariat therefore submitted a proposal on indicators with respect to the goal of halting and reversing land degradation. It was proposed that the indicator on target 15.3, on achieving a land-degradation-neutral world would be formulated to reflect trends in land degradation, as measured in ha/km^2 or proportion of total land area. It was ascertained that trends could be either negative (degradation) or positive (improvement) and that the baseline year would be 2015 for measuring and evaluating future trends. The scale of the trends would be measured at the national and subnational levels, as determined by capacities and development priorities.

2. Intergovernmental working group

61. In the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want" (General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex), the General Assembly called upon Member States to strive to achieve a land-degradation-neutral world in the context of sustainable development. The Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification adopted decision 8/COP.11, in which it decided to establish an intergovernmental working group to follow up on the Conference outcomes related to land degradation neutrality.

62. The intergovernmental working group has held three meetings and has finalized its report, in accordance with its mandate under decision 8/COP.11. Also pursuant to the mandate, it has produced a science-based definition of land degradation neutrality and elaborate the options and implications for its implementation within the Convention while taking note of the ongoing process of elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda. The report will be submitted to the Conference of the Parties for its consideration at its twelfth session to be held in Ankara in October 2015.

E. Global observance of the 2015 World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

63. In its resolution 49/115, the General Assembly proclaimed 17 June as the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought. It invited all States to devote the World Day to promoting public awareness to combat desertification and the effects of drought and the implementation of the provisions of the Convention.

64. The global observance of the 2015 World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought was held in Milan, Italy, and hosted by the Government of Italy in collaboration with the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, the World Bank and other organizations. The event featured statements by high-level officials and visual and verbal testimonies from community representatives and well-known personalities and received wide global media coverage. The report of the global observance event is available from the website of the Convention.

65. The objective of the 2015 World Day was to draw attention to a range of interrelated issues, for example, supporting sustainable land management in the drylands, especially through smart agriculture and adaptation to climate change; promoting access to technology and land rights for small holder farmers who safeguard the environment and meet the food needs of the poor; recognizing and learning from best practices on the balanced use of land for ecology and consumption; promoting increased investments in sustainable land management practices to ensure the establishment and maintenance of sustainable food systems; and recognizing desertification as the invisible frontline, with potential threats to the security, peace and stability of affected countries through, for example, food and water scarcity and environmentally forced migration. It was also intended to promote linkages between sustainable development goals 2 and 15 and to contribute to the observance of the International Year of Soils.

66. In order to further commemorate the World Day, the secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification announced the winners of its first short-story writing contest, which had been launched to promote an understanding of the different ways in which people around the world describe their relationship to the land.

67. The contest theme, "Land nurturing people nurturing life", prompted more than 230 submissions from nearly 50 countries by applicants aged between 7 and 77 years. The submissions were creative, revealing and insightful, with many of the stories presenting the land as a mother figure and advocating for immediate action to restore and protect the land and its resources.

68. Outreach and advocacy efforts by the secretariat during the World Day also resulted in the secretariat web page receiving almost 100,000 visits, more than five times the amount received during the same period in 2014. Significant increases were also recorded in the number of posts and likes on social networks for the World Day.

69. Over 36 observance events were also organized world-wide by Governments and civil society. The events included a children's drawing contest, forums, campaigns, media releases, radio programmes and town hall meetings. A number of

countries drew attention to the need to combat desertification through activities such as tree-planting.

70. On the occasion of the World Day, the Secretary-General issued a message, in which he pointed out that land degradation and desertification undercut human rights, starting with the right to food. Acknowledging that 1 billion people lacked adequate nutrition and that those living off degraded areas were among the most affected, he stated that their situation could worsen if the projected land degradation were to reduce the global food production by 12 per cent by 2035.

71. The Secretary-General also noted that 12 million ha of productive land were being degraded every year and warned that this had not only resulted in deforestation but also in the release of the greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, thus contributing to global warming. In that regard, he emphasized that a change of course was needed, in order to focus on rehabilitating every hectare of degraded land that could provide food or freshwater. He also emphasized that land was a renewable resource, but only if the world invested in land degradation neutrality, as had been proposed by Member States as in the post-2015 development agenda.

F. Collaboration with the Global Environment Facility

72. The collaboration with the Global Environment Facility continues to be governed by the current memorandum of understanding concluded with the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. Following a request by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, the two secretariats have finalized consultations and will submit the resulting amendments to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its twelfth session. The secretariat of the Convention is also discussing with its counterpart on ways to facilitate the access of eligible parties to funding for training and capacity-building activities and for facilitating facilitate better and timely reporting.

G. Partnerships

73. The secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification has also continued to participate actively in initiatives and activities for collaboration and partnership with other United Nations entities to implement the objectives of the Convention. One of the prominent activities involved an agreement reached between the secretariats of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, in which they decided to collaborate on land restoration as part of the common commitment to move towards land degradation neutrality.

74. The secretariats of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the International Organization for Migration signed a partnership agreement in November 2014, with a view to building social and environmental resilience, decreasing tension over land resources and helping countries to protect the most vulnerable people. The two secretariats agreed to work together to develop a common approach that combines land-use planning principles, rights-based practices, sustainable land management techniques, migration management activities and resource mobilization strategies for adaptation.

75. The partnership will assess the risks involved and address vulnerabilities, as well as promote access to land and rehabilitation on the basis of rights-based approaches and strengthened protection frameworks and mechanisms. It is also intended to provide the technical support and planning required to promote sustainable land management techniques in migration-prone areas, with particular attention paid to the most vulnerable communities living in at-risk areas; prevent displacement; improve land-use planning and building standards; and facilitate mobility as a preventive measure and as a response strategy. The partnership will also explore migrant and diaspora contributions and investments and help channel remittances towards land rehabilitation and management.

H. Observations and possible action by the General Assembly

76. During the period under review, desertification, land degradation and drought have been issues under consideration by the subsidiary bodies of the Convention and the General Assembly, through its intergovernmental negotiating group on the post-2015 development agenda. The Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and the Committee on Science and Technology reviewed their efficiency and recommended to the next Conference of the Parties a number of actions to improve their work. The ongoing intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda are likely to adopt a sustainable development goal and a target related to desertification, land degradation and drought. The Assembly may wish to continue its support for the implementation of the Convention, taking into account those developments. It may wish to build on the provisions of its resolution 69/221, including those related to the nexus between issues related to desertification, land degradation and drought and several global policy challenges, notably food security, poverty, climate adaptation and mitigation, and political instability in affected regions.

III. Report on the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity

A. Introduction

77. In its resolution 69/222, the General Assembly invited the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to report to it, at its seventieth session, on the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and Aichi Biodiversity Targets, including on difficulties encountered in the process of their implementation. The present report is submitted in response to that invitation.

B. Outcome of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

78. The twelfth meeting of the Conference of Parties was held from 6 to 17 October 2014, in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea. The high-level segment, which was convened on 15 and 16 October 2014 and attended by over 100 ministers, vice-ministers and high-level representatives, adopted the Gangwon

Declaration on Biodiversity for Sustainable Development. In the Declaration, ministers and heads of delegations welcomed the importance given to biodiversity in the outcome document of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (A/68/970) and called for further integration and mainstreaming of biodiversity in the post-2015 development agenda. It also emphasized the relevance and key contribution of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets for 2050 to the post-2015 development agenda at all levels and invited the General Assembly to integrate them effectively in the post-2015 development agenda.

79. Under the overarching theme "Biodiversity for sustainable development", the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention adopted 33 decisions, the first six decisions of which make up the Pyeongchang road map for the enhanced implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

80. Prominent among the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting were those on biodiversity and sustainable development, notably decision XII/4, on integrating biodiversity into the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals, and decision XII/5, on biodiversity for poverty eradication and sustainable development. In the first decision, the parties encouraged Governments to fully engage in discussions on the post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals, with the goal of integrating and mainstreaming the objectives of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, not only into the relevant goals, targets and indicators but also in the means of implementation of a transformative development agenda. Parties requested that the Executive Secretary continue his engagement in the ongoing processes to ensure an appropriate integration of biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services into the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals, and keep them informed of any major developments.

81. In decision XII/5, on biodiversity for poverty eradication and sustainable development, the parties recognized the importance of biodiversity for poverty eradication and encouraged Governments to take steps to address these linkages at the national level. These included, inter alia, actions with respect to development planning and poverty eradication, national budgeting processes, efforts on food security and nutrition, disaster risk reduction and other national-level policies and processes.

82. Many of the decisions taken at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties were taken on the basis of the assessment provided in the fourth Global Biodiversity Outlook, which was released at the twelfth meeting. Its primary findings were that all parties have increased their efforts to implement their commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity, but that substantially greater efforts would be needed to significantly reduce biodiversity loss and achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

83. Other issues on which the Conference of the Parties deliberated and took decisions included climate change and biodiversity, ecosystem conservation and restoration, synthetic biology and invasive alien species.

84. Considerable attention was also devoted to marine biodiversity, including the adoption of the results of seven regional workshops to facilitate the description of

ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and the adoption of guidance to minimize pressures on coral reefs and lessen the adverse impact of underwater noise on marine biodiversity. A new Convention on Biological Diversity technical series report on the impact of ocean acidification on biodiversity was also launched at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Capacity-building activities, including activities conducted in the framework of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative, were also highlighted at the meeting.

85. The Conference of the Parties reflected on ways to mobilize the financial and human resources necessary to achieve the 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets and adopted final targets for resource mobilization, following up on the preliminary targets previously agreed at its eleventh meeting. The Conference also deliberated on the extension of the strategy for resource mobilization beyond 2015.

86. The Conference of the Parties established a new subsidiary body, known as the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, which is intended to assist the Conference in its very important function of keeping under review the implementation of the Convention. It was also agreed by the parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity that the Subsidiary Body on Implementation would also support the Protocols.

87. The recommendations of the eighth meeting of the ad hoc open-ended inter-sessional working group on article 8 (j) of the Convention and related provisions were also considered at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, at which the Conference endorsed the global plan of action on customary sustainable use of biological diversity and urged parties and other stakeholders to implement it, taking into account diverse national circumstances, including legal and policy regimes. The Conference of the Parties also requested the working group on article 8 (j) of the Convention and related provisions to continue to work on guidance that would assist parties and Governments in the development of legislation or other mechanisms, including national action plans and sui generis systems for the effective implementation of article 8 (j) and related provisions so as to ensure that the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities in respect of their knowledge, innovations and practices, within the context of the Convention, are fully recognized, safeguarded and guaranteed.

88. In decision XII/7, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity recognized the importance of gender considerations for the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, welcomed the 2015-2020 gender plan of action under the Convention and requested the parties to report on actions undertaken to implement it. The plan defines the role that the secretariat of the Convention will play in stimulating and facilitating efforts, both in-house and with partners and parties at the national, regional and global levels, to overcome constraints and take advantage of opportunities to promote gender equality within its work, and sets out actions that may be undertaken by parties to mainstream gender when implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity. In line with paragraph 31 of General Assembly resolution 66/288, the Five-Year Action Agenda of the Secretary-General, his commitment to work with and for young people, and the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Youth developed by the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development, the secretariat of the

Convention facilitated the inclusion of youth representatives in its processes, including at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and its high-level segment. To this end, the Global Youth Biodiversity Network served to provide informal coordination for youth participation and provided a global platform through which youth engaged in biodiversity-related activities could exchange experience and act in support of the implementation of the Convention, including in partnership with parties.

89. The twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties was also notable for special sessions on peace and biodiversity and an extensive programme of parallel events designed to mobilize and engage a range of stakeholders for the implementation of the Convention. These included a three-day series of events to engage the private sector, including a high-level segment, a business and biodiversity workshop and a meeting of the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity, with sessions on sustainable tourism, biotrade, biodiversity as natural capital and issues relating to access to and benefit sharing of genetic resources. The Conference of Parties also adopted a decision on business engagement (decision XII/10), which, inter alia, emphasized issues such as reporting so as to ensure that the private sector contributes to the implementation of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, capacity-building to help businesses to mainstream biodiversity, and ensuring that biodiversity information for businesses is featured in various forums. An initiative on biodiversity impact indicators for commodity production was also launched at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. For the first time, private sector representatives were able to be represented at the high-level segment of the Conference of the Parties and were able to deliver a collective statement presenting their views.

90. A Biodiversity Summit for Cities and Subnational Governments was also convened in parallel with the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, from 12 to 14 October 2014, attracting more than 500 participants, including mayors and governors from around the globe. The focus of the Summit was cooperative governance for biodiversity.

91. A fair on best practices in communication was also convened on the margins of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. At the fair, the implementation of Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity were discussed. The Rio Conventions pavilion provided a collaborative framework to showcase ongoing cooperation among a range of partners to advance the common agendas of the three conventions, namely, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

92. The Bio-Bridge initiative of the Republic of Korea, the host Government, was also launched at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of Parties. The objective of the initiative is to facilitate cooperation in the international community in order to provide technical and scientific cooperation. At the meeting, the Government of the Republic of Korea also launched additional initiatives in support of the Convention's agenda: the Peace and Biodiversity Dialogue Initiative to support transboundary conservation efforts and the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative.

C. Key outcomes of the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

93. The seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety met from 29 September to 3 October 2014 and adopted 14 decisions to advance the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol. Notable among the decisions adopted were decisions on the socioeconomic considerations related to importing living modified organisms under the Cartagena Protocol, risk assessment and risk management concerning living modified organisms, the assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Cartagena Protocol, and unintentional transboundary movements of living modified organisms.

94. The seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety extended the mandate of the ad hoc technical expert group on socioeconomic considerations to further develop conceptual clarity on socioeconomic considerations arising from the impact of living modified organisms on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. The decision aims to solicit views and comments from parties, other Governments, relevant organizations and indigenous and local committees in order to establish conceptual clarity on socioeconomic considerations under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

95. At its seventh meeting, the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties also welcomed the results of the testing of the guidance on risk assessment of living modified organisms, and invited parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to further test or use the guidance, as appropriate, in actual cases of risk assessment and as a tool for capacity-building activities in risk assessment with the aim of enabling the ad hoc technical expert group on risk assessment to improve the guidance. The Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties also recommended a coordinated approach with the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on the issue of synthetic biology.

96. Furthermore, the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties decided that the third assessment and review of effectiveness of the Cartagena Protocol would be combined with the mid-term evaluation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 at its eight meeting, with the evaluation drawing on information from the third national reports as primary sources, the Biosafety Clearing-House and additional data collected through surveys. The recently established Subsidiary Body on Implementation was tasked to review the information gathered and undertake the third assessment and review, combined with the midterm evaluation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and present its recommendations to the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

97. At its seventh meeting, the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties also established a process to enhance capacity-building activities on the detection and identification of living modified organisms. At the same meeting, the Government of the Republic of Korea launched an initiative in support of capacity-building under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

D. Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

98. Following the adoption of the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol at the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, held in 2010, the Supplementary Protocol had, as at 20 May 2015, a total number of 32 ratifications, including approval by the European Union. The Supplementary Protocol will enter into force on the 90th day after the date of deposit of the 40th instrument of ratification, accession, acceptance or approval by the parties to the Cartagena Protocol.

E. Key outcomes of the first Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity

99. After receiving its 50th instrument of ratification on 14 July 2014, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity entered into force, 90 days later, on 12 October 2014. The entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol marked a milestone in the history of the Convention and represented a major step towards achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 16, which requires that by 2015, the Nagoya Protocol be in force, operational and consistent with national legislation.

100. Following its entry into force, the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol was held concurrently with the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, from 13 to 17 October 2014. At the meeting, the parties to the Nagoya Protocol adopted a number of key decisions to further advance the implementation of the Protocol. Decisions adopted include: a process to consider the need for and modalities of a global multilateral benefit-sharing mechanism; a strategic framework for capacity-building; an awareness-raising strategy; a format for an interim national report for monitoring the implementation of the Protocol; and procedures and mechanisms to promote compliance with the provisions of the Protocol and address cases of non-compliance.

101. At its first meeting, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol adopted modalities for the operation of the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-house, which provides a platform where Parties can provide, exchange and update the information required to be submitted under the Nagoya Protocol.

F. Progress made in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, including difficulties encountered in the process of implementation

102. As noted in the findings of the fourth Global Biodiversity Outlook, limited capacities and resources to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 represent a major challenge, particularly for developing countries. An increased focus on scientific and technical cooperation and continued attention to resource mobilization are expected to support countries in addressing these challenges.

103. The Convention's high-level panel on the global assessment of resources for implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 provided its initial assessment to the fifth meeting of the ad hoc open-ended working group to review implementation of the Convention and to the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing, highlighting that expenditure and actions to meet the Aichi Biodiversity Targets by 2020 should be recognized as part of the wider investment need to achieve the sustainable development goals. Earlier in 2014, the financial mechanism of the Convention, the Global Environment Facility, successfully concluded its negotiations for the sixth replenishment period (1 July 2014 through 30 June 2018) and allocated $1.296 billion to the biodiversity focal area, making biodiversity the largest single focal area in the Global Environment Facility.

104. Support from the international community and the United Nations system through the mainstreaming of biodiversity in the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals will be crucial to generating and sustaining the momentum required for the implementation of the Strategic Plan and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. A detailed assessment of progress made in implementation of the Strategic Plan and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets is annexed to the present report.

G. Follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

105. To follow up to the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, which welcomed the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity as an important framework for promoting the engagement of all stakeholders in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, the secretariat has promoted a number of activities. Significant among these were a number of commemorative events that were organized at the national level to mark the International Day for Biodiversity on 22 May 2015. The theme of the International Day for 2015 was "Biodiversity for Sustainable Development". The theme was chosen against the backdrop of the discussions within the United Nations on the post-2015 development agenda.

106. The secretariat is also contributing actively to the preparations initiated by the United Nations task team to support the deliberations of Member States on the post-2015 development agenda, with a view to mainstreaming biodiversity in the consideration of the post-2015 development agenda.

107. Biodiversity has featured prominently in the negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda. During these discussions, the message communicated by many delegations was that the achievement of sustainable development requires implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Achieving these internationally agreed goals and targets of protecting and restoring biodiversity and using it sustainably and equitably will require mainstreaming biodiversity into development policies, including the sustainable development goals.

H. Recommendations

108. **The General Assembly, at its seventieth session, may wish to, inter alia:**

(a) **Stress the importance of follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and the first Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity;**

(b) **Call upon all parties to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and mainstream and integrate biodiversity in the post-2015 development agenda;**

(c) **Invite all parties and relevant United Nations departments, specialized agencies, funds, programmes and regional commissions to contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity (2011-2020);**

(d) **Call upon all States that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Convention on Biological Diversity;**

(e) **Call upon all parties to the Convention that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity;**

(f) **Call upon all parties to the Convention that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and its Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress.**

Annex

Progress in the implementation of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

A summary of progress towards the achievement of each of the 20 targets is provided below:

Target 1. There is evidence of an increase in awareness and understanding of biodiversity, with countries reporting on media campaigns, incorporation of the concept into school curriculums and other outreach activities. Limited information is available on the awareness of individuals regarding measures that they can take to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity.

Target 2. Important but limited progress has been achieved in incorporating biodiversity values into planning processes and strategies to reduce poverty and integrating natural capital into national accounts. Wide variations among countries remain, but international initiatives, including the United Nations-led ecosystem accounting initiative, are helping to reduce these differences.

Target 3. Governments continue to provide subsidies that are harmful to biodiversity, especially with respect to energy and fisheries. Agricultural subsidies are increasingly shifting towards positive incentives for conserving biodiversity. Greater attention and effort related to the elimination, phasing out or reform of harmful incentives and support to positive incentives will be required to achieve this target.

Target 4. While natural resources are being used much more efficiently to produce goods and services, this advance is overwhelmed by the greatly increased total levels of unsustainable consumption and production, and it is unlikely that ecosystems can be kept within safe ecological limits given current patterns of consumption and production.

Target 5. Loss of forest habitats in some regions has been significantly slowed. However, deforestation in many areas of the world is still increasing, and habitats of all types, including grasslands, wetlands and river systems, continue to be fragmented and degraded.

Target 6. There has been some progress in rebuilding depleted fisheries, and an increasing number of fisheries are being certified as sustainable. However, overfishing continues to be a major problem, and inappropriate fishing practices are causing damage to habitats and non-target species.

Target 7. Increased certified forestry, especially in boreal and temperate zones, and increased adoption of good agricultural practices points to a trend towards more sustainable production. Nevertheless, unsustainable practices in agriculture, aquaculture and forestry continue to cause substantial environmental degradation and biodiversity loss.

Target 8. Nutrient pollution has stabilized in parts of Europe and North America but is projected to increase in other regions and remains a significant threat to aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity. Other forms of pollution, such as from chemicals, pesticides and plastics, are increasing.

Target 9. Governments are increasingly taking steps to control and eradicate invasive alien species. However, the overall rate of invasions, with great economic and ecological costs, shows no sign of slowing. Preventive measures have been taken in a limited number of countries.

Target 10. Some large coral areas are being incorporated into marine protected areas. However, the multiple pressures on coral reefs, both from land-based and marine activities, continue to increase and must be urgently addressed in order to make progress towards this target.

Target 11. Taking current commitments into account, the target of protecting at least 17 per cent of terrestrial areas by 2020 is likely to be met globally, although protected area networks remain unrepresentative of ecosystem diversity, and many critical sites for biodiversity are unprotected or poorly conserved. The target of protecting at least 10 per cent is also on course to be met in coastal areas, but open ocean and deep sea areas are not covered nearly as well. Inadequate management of protected areas remains widespread.

Target 12. Despite individual success stories, the average risk of extinction for plants and animals, especially for birds, mammals and amphibians, shows no sign of decreasing.

Target 13. The genetic diversity of domesticated livestock is eroding, with more than one fifth of breeds at risk of extinction, and the wild relatives of domesticated crop species are increasingly threatened by habitat fragmentation and climate change. Significant progress continues to be made in ex situ conservation of species and varieties.

Target 14. Habitats important for ecosystem services, for example, wetlands and forests, continue to be lost and degraded, with implications for vulnerable groups in particular.

Target 15. Restoration is under way for some depleted or degraded ecosystems, especially wetlands and forests, sometimes on an ambitious scale. Many countries, organizations and companies have pledged to restore large areas.

Target 16. The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization entered into force on 12 October 2014, opening up new opportunities for benefits from the use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge to be more widely and fairly shared.

Target 17. Updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans are expected to be in place for most parties by the end of 2015, helping to translate the aims of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 into national actions.

Target 18. Traditional knowledge continues to decline, as indicated by the loss of linguistic diversity and large-scale displacement of indigenous and local communities to urban areas, although this trend has been reversed in some places as a result of growing interest in traditional cultures and the involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities in the management of protected areas.

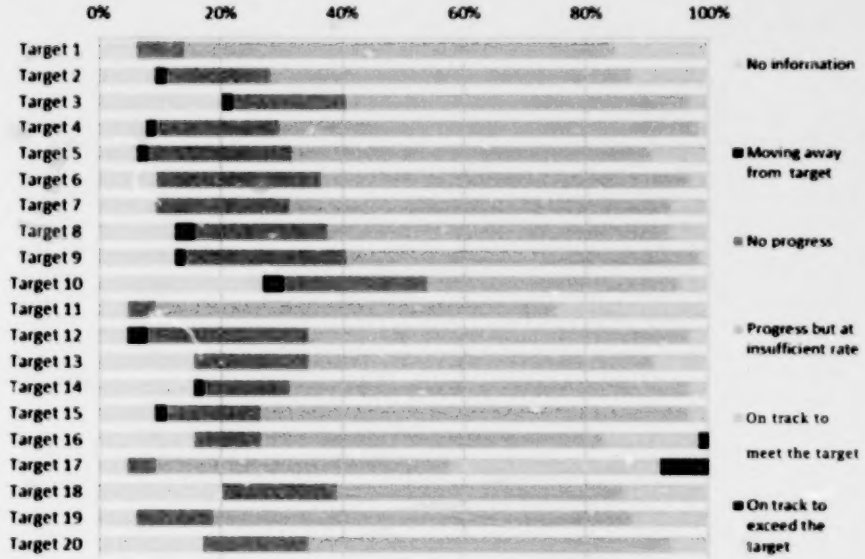
Target 19. Data and information on biodiversity are being shared much more widely through initiatives promoting and facilitating free and open access to digitized records from natural history collections and observations, including

through citizen science networks. However, much data and information remain inaccessible, and capacity to utilize them is lacking in many countries.

Target 20. While there is some evidence of progress in mobilizing financial resources domestically, through international transfers and through innovative mechanisms, progress is currently insufficient to achieve the substantial increase needed.

The figure below represents an assessment of progress made towards the attainment of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets based on the information contained in the 64 fifth national reports[a] submitted and reviewed under the fourth Global Biodiversity Outlook. Almost 60 per cent of the reports explicitly assessed national progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. In those cases, the country's assessment was applied to a common five-point scale. In the other cases, the assessment was inferred from the information contained in the report. A number of the reports did not contain information that allowed for an assessment of progress; those cases are represented in the figure as "no information".

Assessment of progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets based on information in the fifth national reports



[a] The assessment draws on information in the reports of the following: Albania, Australia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominica, Ecuador, Estonia, Ethiopia, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Liberia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Niue, Pakistan, Palau, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Senegal, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tonga, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United Republic of Tanzania. The reports are available from http://www.cbd.int/nr5/default.shtml.